borrowers in USA and some unknown officers of the Bank and private parties, misused his official position and granted various credit facilities by exceeding his delegated authority and without making required credit assessment including pre-sanction inspection/post-sanction inspection. Further, the financial status of the borrowers was also not ascertained.

(e) The High Level Committee set up by Reserve Bank of India, at the instance of Government of India to enquire into various aspects relating to frauds and malpractices in banks, have made a number of recommendations in regard to checking incidence of frauds in advances portfolio of the banks. The Banks have been advised to implement the recommendations of the Committee in this regard which inter-alia, call for obtaining adequate and comparative financial statements, details of the project, confidential reports on the borrowers and proper appraisal of the loan proposals before sanctioning the credit facilities.

The Banks have also been advised to set up Internal Loans Review Department to evaluate the quality of credit portfolio and report on the health portfolio directly to the Board at periodical intervals.

The Banks have been advised to lay stress on the technical competence of the officials in evaluating the loan proposals.

News item regarding opium war

5418. SHRI PRAMOD MAHAJAN: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government's attention has been drawn towards a news item under the caption 'opium war' published in Sunday, the 27th March, 1994; and

(b) if so, what steps Government are taking against this onslaught of Pakistan?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) Some of the steps taken by the Government to curb drug trafficking are as under:—

1. All law enforcement agencies under the Central and State Governments have been instructed to maintain utmost vigil against trafficking of drugs from across the Indo-Pak border.

2. Specialised training is being imparted to field officers to improve their capabilities of combating drug trafficking.

3. Vehicles and equipments procured under UNDCP assistance programme have been provided to enforcement agencies operating on the border areas.

4. A part of Indo-Pak border has been fenced.

5. Field level contact points in all Central and State Government enforcement agencies have been established to promote interagency cooperation in enforcement work.

6. Coordination meetings are being held regularly at the Central and State levels to review the working of enforcement agencies and to exchange intelligence on drug trafficking.

7. BSF and the Coast Guard who are deployed on the land and coastal border have been vested with the powers under the Customs Act to interdict narcotic drugs in addition to the Central and State Government enforcement agencies empowered under NDPS Act.

Appointment of Auditors for Public Sector Banks

5419. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD: Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Reserve Bank of India's rules and regulations regarding appointment of Central Statutory auditors for public sector banks are being flouted by firms of Chartered Accountants?

(b) whether such appointment are made on the sole criterion that there should be at least four partners in such a firm;

(c) whether Government are aware that such firms, apart from meeting the 'quantum of partners' criterion, do not have the requisite

organisational strength or relevant expertise to handle such large and sensitive assignments; and

(d) whether it is also a fact that many audit firms indicted by the Joint Parliamentary Committee in the banking-scam have been re-appointed even before the completion of enquiry on their role?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) The norms for empanelment of Statutory Central Auditors have been recommended by the Standing Advisory Committee (SAC) constituted by RBI for public sector banks. These norms inter-alia stipulate that the firm should have a minimum of 6 full-time Chartered Accountants including 4 full-time partners, of which one should be FCA. The norms prescribed by SAC ensure that the concerned auditors have requisite organisational strength and expertise.

Disbursement of Loans by Central Bank of India

5420. SHRI B. K. HARIPRASAD : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :

(a) Whether it is fact that there have been certain specific irregularities in the process of Central Bank of India's disbursement of loans worth more than Rs. 400 crores to select corporate sector;

(b) if so, who are the beneficiaries of this disbursement and the amounts of loans advanced to each of them;

(c) whether it is a fact that RBI in its communication dated October 11, 1991 had cautioned the Central Bank of India to exercise utmost care to ensure the proper end-use of funds and if so, why the Central Bank of India flouted the RBI's directives, and

(d) What is the quantum of such advances now considered to be unrecoverable or sticky?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FINANCE (SHRI M. V. CHANDRASHEKHAR MURTHY) : (a) and (b) Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has reported that its scrutiny of the relatively large advances sanctioned by the Central Bank of India during the year 1991-92 has revealed certain irregularities. RBI's scrutiny report has not given any aggregate figure of the limits sanctioned or outstanding in such accounts. However, Central Bank of India has reported that total present exposure in the 19 accounts covered in RBI scrutiny is Rs. 191.79 crores.

(c) Information is being collected and will be laid on the Table of the House.

(d) Central Bank of India has reported that out of its total exposure of Rs. 191.79 crores in cases covered in RBI's scrutiny Rs. 30.48 crores relates to doubtful and loss asset accounts.

प्रवास में अनिवासी भारतीयों द्वारा निवेश

5421. श्री सुरेन्द्र सिंह भण्डारी : क्या वित्त मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) पूर्वी एशिया, पश्चिमी एशिया, ब्रिटेन और अमेरिका में रहने वाले एक लाख डालर से अधिक, 50 हजार से एक लाख डालर तक और 50 लाख डालर से कम आय वाले कितने भारतीयों ने निवेश किया है;

(ख) निवेश करने के लिये अनिच्छुक भारतीयों ने निवेश न करने के क्या कारण दिये हैं; और

(ग) इस संबंध में अनिवासी भारतीयों को पेश आ रही कठिनाइयों को दूर करने के लिए सरकार द्वारा क्या उपाय किये जा रहे हैं और क्या योजना बनाई जा रही है?

वित्त मंत्रालय में राज्य मंत्री (श्री एम० वी० चन्द्रशेखर मूर्ति) : (क) सरकार द्वारा विशिष्ट आय वर्गों के तहत अथवा विशिष्ट क्षेत्र से आने वाले अनिवासी भारतीयों (एन० आर० आई०) द्वारा किए गए निवेशों से संबंधित आंकड़े नहीं रखे जा रहे हैं।

(ख) और (ग) अनिवासी भारतीयों द्वारा पता लगाई गई निवेश संबंधी समस्याओं पर, सरकार द्वारा [illegible] अधिक और निवेश संबंधी नीतिगत सुधारों के भाग के रूप में निरन्तर मूल्यांकन एवं ध्यान दिया जा रहा है।

Allocation of funds for State and Central Plans

5422. SHRI SOMAPPA R. BOMMAI : Will the Minister of FINANCE be pleased to state :